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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,653	12/16/2003	Jefferson B. Burch	10030565-1	5350

7590 03/27/2006

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EXAMINER

VU, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 03/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/736,653	Applicant(s) BURCH ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael Vu	Art Unit 2683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/30/04 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moran (US 2002/0177448) in view of Ying (US 6,757,521).

Regarding **Claim 1**, Moran teaches a monitoring system (Abstract, [0008]) comprising: a central processing server (Fig.1, element 12), wherein said central processing server performs one or more of: issues measurement requests for measuring conditions of a monitored area; and processes data received in response to said measurement requests (Fig. 7, element 14, [0025, 0039, 0071-0072]; **but is silent on** a plurality of intermediate monitor sites communicably connected to said central processing server for relaying said measurement requests; and a plurality of smart probes in communication with said plurality of intermediate monitor sites for measuring

Art Unit: 2683

said data in response to said measurement request, wherein each one of said plurality of smart probes determines a set of conditions for said each one prior to said measuring (C4, L32-67, C5, L1-65).

However, Ying teaches a method and system for locating and assisting portable devices performing remote diagnostic and analysis of a control networks (Abstract, C4, L31-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moran, such that a plurality of intermediate monitor sites communicatably connected to said central processing server for relaying said measurement requests; and a plurality of smart probes in communication with said plurality of intermediate monitor sites for measuring said data in response to said measurement request, wherein each one of said plurality of smart probes determines a set of conditions for said each one prior to said measuring, to provide the flexibility, and multipurpose of the test and diagnosis tool for either simple or complex control network systems for improving technical assistance to maintenance work performed by such personnel.

Regarding **Claim 2**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1, Ying further teaches wherein said set of conditions comprises one or more of: availability of said each one to take said measurement request; capability of said each one for taking said measurement request; and a configuration of said each one needed to take said measurement request (C3, L55-67 C7, L48-63, C9, L6-32 to C10, L28-44).

Regarding **Claim 3**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1, Ying further teaches wherein said central processing server further issues task requests for influencing a condition of said monitored area and wherein said plurality of smart probes perform tasks in response to said task request relayed from said plurality of intermediate monitor sites (C5, L8-65).

Regarding **Claim 4**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 3, Ying further teaches wherein said set of conditions comprises one or more of: availability of said each one to perform said task request; capability of said each one for performing said task request; and a configuration of said each one needed to perform said task request (C3, L55-67 C7, L48-63, C9, L6-32 to C10, L28-44).

Regarding **Claim 5**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1, Ying further teaches wherein said plurality of smart probes: generates a random participation number for participating in one or more of said measurement request; compares said random participation number to a participation threshold; and determines participation in said measurement request according to said comparison (C18, L59-67 to C19, L1-10, Claims 12 and 19 reads on).

Regarding **Claim 6**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 5, Ying further teaches wherein said participation threshold is weighted according to one or more of: a number of participating ones of said plurality of smart probes; and an importance of said measurement request (C18, L59-67 to C19, L1-10, Claims 12 and 19 reads on).

Regarding **Claim 7**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1, Ying further teaches comprising: a transceiver disposed within said plurality of smart probes, wherein said transceiver enables communication between said plurality of smart probes (C18, L59-67 to C19, L1-10, Claims 12 and 19 reads on).

Regarding **Claim 8**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 7, Ying further teaches wherein said plurality of smart probes exchange one or more of: select ones of said set of conditions; and a participation state of said plurality of smart probes (C3, L55-67 C7, L48-63, C9, L6-32 to C10, L28-44).

Regarding **Claim 9**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1 further comprising: a management computer disposed within said plurality of intermediate monitor sites (C5, L8-65).

Regarding **Claim 10**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 9 wherein said management computer performs one or more of: transmitting measurement requests to select ones of said plurality of smart probes responsive to one or more of: a capability of said select ones; and an availability of said select ones; receiving said data from said plurality of smart probes; and partially processing said data prior to communicating said partially processed data to said central processing server (C3, L55-67 C7, L48-63, C9, L6-32 to C10, L28-44).

Regarding **Claim 11**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of smart probes are wireless (Abstract).

Regarding **Claim 12**, Moran/Ying teach the monitoring system of claim 11 wherein said plurality of wireless smart probes are each located on a mobile platform (Abstract, C4, L32-60).

Regarding **Claims 13 and 24**, Moran/Ying teach a method for monitoring a measurement system [0013, 0023] comprising: issuing an experiment from a central server to a plurality of intermediate monitoring stations (Abstract, Fig. 1 Base station element 49-53, probes/phone/car/PDA 14A-C); transmitting said experiment to a plurality of smart probes [0028]; **but is silent on** determining at said plurality of smart probes a set of tasks for completing said experiment; performing said set of tasks; and transmitting data resulting from said performing step to said central server (C1, L59-67 to C2, L11-23, C4, L32-67, C5, L1-36).

However, Ying teaches a method and system for locating and assisting portable devices performing remote diagnostic and analysis of a control networks (Abstract, C4, L31-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Moran, such that determining at said plurality of smart probes a set of tasks for completing said experiment; performing said set of tasks; and transmitting data resulting from said performing step to said central server, to provide the flexibility, and multipurpose of the test and diagnosis tool for either simple or complex control network systems for improving technical assistance to maintenance work performed by such personnel.

Regarding **Claims 14 and 25**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches comprising: determining at said plurality of smart probes an availability to perform said set of tasks; and determining at said plurality of smart probes a capability of performing each of said set of tasks (C3, L55-67 C7, L48-63, C9, L6-32 to C10, L28-44).

Regarding **Claims 15 and 26**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 14, Ying further teaches comprising: generating a random participation number at said plurality of smart probes; comparing said random participation number to a participation threshold; and determining a participation state of said plurality of smart probes responsive to said comparing (C18, L59-67 to C19, L1-10, Claims 12 and 19 reads on).

Regarding **Claims 16 and 27**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 15, Ying further teaches wherein said participation threshold is weighted according to one or more of: a number of said plurality of smart probes performing one or more of said set of tasks; and an importance attributable to said one or more of said set of tasks (C18, L59-67 to C19, L1-10, Claims 12 and 19 reads on).

Regarding **Claims 17 and 28**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches wherein said experiment relates to conditions existing in select portions of said measurement system (C3, L30-55).

Regarding **Claims 18 and 29**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 17, Ying further teaches wherein said transmitting step comprises: ascertaining ones of said plurality of smart probes located within a predetermined distance from said select

Art Unit: 2683

portions of said measurement system; and communicating said experiment to said ascertained ones of said plurality of smart probes (C4, L32-67).

Regarding **Claims 19 and 30**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 18, Ying further teaches wherein said ascertaining is performed by said plurality of intermediate monitoring stations (C4, L32-67).

Regarding **Claims 20 and 31**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches comprising: processing into said data, at said plurality of smart probes, measurements taken in said performing said set of tasks (C4, L32-67).

Regarding **Claims 21 and 32**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches comprising: processing into said data, at said plurality of intermediate monitoring stations, information received from said plurality of smart probes (C4, L32-67).

Regarding **Claims 22 and 33**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches comprising: exchanging information related to said experiment between said plurality of smart probes (C4, L32-67).

Regarding **Claims 23 and 34**, Moran/Ying teach the method of claim 13, Ying further teaches comprising: communicating between said plurality of smart probes to divide performance of selected tasks of said set of tasks between selected smart probes of said plurality (C4, L32-67).

Art Unit: 2683

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fuller US 2003/0036874

Tsuji US 2004/0198387

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8131. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 6:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on 571-272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2683

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael T. Vu



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PRIMARY EXAMINER